

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of United States Marine Sergeant Dan Priestly, and join me in offering him a warm welcome home. Sergeant Priestly's steadfast courage, immense sacrifice, and dedicated service to our country will be remembered always by our community and our Nation. I wish Sergeant Dan Priestly, his wife Lisa Priestly and their children Garrett and Tyler, an abundance of health, happiness and peace, today and in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER RODINO

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a truly exceptional former member of this chamber. Congressman Peter Rodino was an extraordinary man in extraordinary times. The significance and importance of this great individual is immediately evidenced by the words, praises, and acclamations from his colleagues here today.

I had the privilege of serving as a member of the House Judiciary Committee under his chairmanship for several years and then experienced the defining moment for his career as he led us through the consideration of articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon. His obvious integrity and steady leadership of the Committee during this period were reassuring to a Nation recoiling from the complicity of a President in the perpetration of criminal acts.

When the Nation needed a guiding hand in this national crisis, Peter Rodino steered us with diligence, respect, and thoughtfulness. He is best known for presiding over the impeachment trial of President Nixon. This was not a task that he took lightly nor pursued with great venom. He led the Judiciary Committee cautiously through its deliberation and consideration of the issue. He knew that a partisan approach would be divisive to the country and that Congress should act with all seriousness when reversing the public will. As the chairman, Mr. Rodino ensured that the Judiciary Committee behaved responsibly. He brought his personal gravitas and respect to the hearings and guaranteed that the proceedings were respected by all.

When the Congress needed a leader to meet the challenge posed by the Civil Rights Movement, Peter Rodino in his classic style stood up and fought for the civil rights of all Americans. In the 1960s, when the country faced an energized black constituency determined to fulfill the promises of the Constitution, Peter Rodino stood up to defend their civil rights. He was one of the primary sponsors of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1964. From the Civil Rights Act to the Equal Rights Amendment, he supported every significant piece of civil rights legislation that emerged during his tenure in office. He was a supporter of the equality of every citizen and fought to ensure that justice was not denied to any group.

Peter Rodino's life was not confined to Congress. He was a proud Italian-American and a dutiful public servant who repeatedly and self-

lessly gave of his time, experience, and wisdom. Prior to entering Congress, he fought in Italy and Africa during World War II, earning a Bronze Star, and later served with the Italian military, receiving a Knight of Order of Crown. After retiring from Congress, he taught and inspired future lawyers at Seton Hall University Law School. At Seton Hall, the Rodino Law Society continues his legacy of activism, responsibility, and duty and stands as a sign of his commitment to guiding future generations.

I am proud to have served with Peter Rodino for 20 years in this chamber. He led by example and respected each member and person he met. He was a member who regularly engaged in both political and personal conversations with members on both sides of aisles. He was a product of his time—a time where civility and respect formed the public character and members regularly chatted with one another about the best interests of this country and their personal lives. As a congressional leader, Peter encouraged Republicans and Democrats alike to interact more, debate the issues of the day, and work towards solving the problems of this Nation.

I am glad that this chamber is taking the time to recognize the importance of this wonderful man. I will miss Peter Rodino for all of these reasons and many more. He was clearly an extraordinary man who represented the very best of this Nation. Sometimes I wish there were more Rodinos in this chamber and in our public life.

#### HONORING LOCAL 34 FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES, UNITE-HERE INTERNATIONAL UNION AS THEY CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THEIR FIRST CONTRACT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many who have gathered to join Local 34 Federation of University Employees, UNITE-HERE International Union as they celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of their first contract with Yale University. Two decades after their inception, Local 34 continues to provide a strong voice to the clerical workers, financial assistants, research technicians, and medical assistants they represent.

In the early nineteen eighties, across America there was a change in what was the traditional role of women in the workplace. Increasingly, women were not simply working for a little extra money, but were becoming career women—working to support themselves and their families. As this transition moved forward, clerical and technical employees at Yale University—positions a majority of which were held by women—began to meet and discuss possible opportunities for them to obtain such daring goals as equal pay for equal work and the availability of a pension plan that would be meaningful in their retirement. They began to look for similar employment protections that were offered to other employees at Yale University. It was from these early discussions that the Local 34 was organized.

With assistance from their brethren at Local 35, which represents the service and maintenance workers at the University, and Local 217, who represent hotel and restaurant workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island, the effort to establish Local 34 began. In May of 1983, clerical and technical workers at Yale took the historic step of voting to form Local 34. Their mission, as it still stands today, was simple. They wanted to protect and advance the interests of their membership. During their first negotiations with Yale University, Local 34 fought for the concept of “comparable work,” and focused not only on the specific issues of salaries and benefits, but on the larger social issues of women's and civil rights. With diligence and unwavering commitment to their cause, Local 34 and Yale University endured nineteen months of discussion, a total of ninety-two negotiating sessions, and a 10-week strike to sign their first contract. This significant moment not only provided clerical and technical workers with real changes in wages, benefits, and pensions, but, for the first time, these employees had a real voice on the job.

Twenty years later, Local 34 continues to serve the interests of their membership and in its work to improve the University and community as well. As they celebrate this remarkable milestone in their history, I am proud to stand and extend my sincere congratulations to the leadership and membership of Local 34 Federation of University Employees, UNITE-HERE International Union—past and present—for their many invaluable contributions to our community. I have and continue to be proud to work with them in these efforts which make such a difference in the lives of our hardworking men and women and their families.

#### HONORING DAN JOHNSON

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, a husband, father, businessman, accountant, and community leader. Dan Johnson is a man of values and integrity. He is a steady thoughtful leader who has been giving back to the community for more than three decades.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Dan Johnson graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a degree in accounting. After faithful service to his country in the U.S. Army, Dan came to Chattanooga, established himself through civic and political involvement and founded Johnson, Hickey and Murchison, PC in 1977.

Dan's role as the CEO of the firm that bears his name has provided the platform for him to promote and encourage entrepreneurs and private investment. His contributions to job growth and economic development are significant.

In his new capacity as Chief of Staff to Chattanooga's Mayor Ron Littlefield, Dan offers seasoned political and legislative expertise, which will serve our citizens very well. Dan exemplifies the words in the Jaycee Creed, “Service to humanity is the best work of life.”

Dan's selfless contributions have been recognized by our community and state: He received the Public Service Award from the Tennessee Society (Of Certified Public Accounts

in 1997, the 2004 Benefactor Award by The Tennessee Council for Resource Development and the 2005 Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy—just to name a few.

Dan's affiliations and leadership positions include being president of the Chattanooga Jaycees and the Tennessee Jaycees, founding member of Jaycee Future Corporation and Jaycee Progress, Inc., which built housing for the elderly in Chattanooga. He is also a board member and past chairman of Chattanooga's public television station, WTCI Channel 45, member and past secretary of the Chattanooga Kiwanis Club, treasurer and co-founder of Blood Assurance, vice president and board member of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, a member of the board of trustees at Erlanger Medical Center, vice president and board member of Orange Grove Center, past Chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Party, 1998 Chairman of the Year for the TN Society of Certified Public Accountants and my trusted campaign treasurer for more than a decade.

Dan and his wife of 43 years, Linda, live in Hixson. Their four children have blessed them with twelve grandchildren. The Johnsons have been active members of the First Baptist Church of Chattanooga for almost forty years.

A great man! A great mind! And a big heart! Thank you, Dan Johnson, for the example you set, your devotion to others and selfless service to mankind. We are all the better because of your dedication to our region, state and nation.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. DOROTHEA'S CHURCH

#### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. Dorothea's Catholic Church in Eatontown, New Jersey.

The one hundred year history of St. Dorothea's Church is rich in stories of individuals' commitment to community service and helping others. The congregation was first established on October 1, 1905 in the small Quaker village of Eatontown made up of farmers, merchants and some professionals. Before enough funds were secured to build an actual structure, Mass was celebrated in the private homes of the few Catholics in the neighborhood. The first recorded Mass was celebrated in the "Buttonwood Cottage" on Main Street, on October 10, 1905.

Over the years, many pastors have served the community of St. Dorothea's. Rev. James B. Coyle, who served the parish from 1960–1990, oversaw the construction of a new, modern church in 1965, which offered more space for worship as well as youth and adult, educational programming and community activities. With the creation of the new building, St. Dorothea's has provided to the local residents of Eatontown and the surrounding communities in Monmouth County.

In recent years, Rev. G. Williams Evans has developed greater outreach and community service for St. Dorothea's. Some of the many

programs that he has established are ministries to several segments of the population, the Knights of Columbus chapter and a "Prayer Garden" located on the grounds of the church. Currently, Rev. Evans is supervising the publication of St. Dorothea's one hundred year history, written by parishioner Gordon Bishop.

Some of the many community outreach programs that St. Dorothea's runs are religious education classes, Vacation Bible School for young parishioners as well as a youth group that provides structured activities and events for teenagers. Also groups of volunteers provide pastoral and hospital care for the community's sick and elderly, giving spiritual care to those in need. The parish continues to organize important events for fundraising and special occasions, and soon is commemorating its centennial anniversary with a series of events, including a picnic, parish trip, concert, mass, and dinner.

Mr. Speaker, I join Eatontown Mayor Gerald Tarantolo and many others in recognizing St. Dorothea's Church for its rich one hundred year history and service to the people of Eatontown. From the hard work of the original 18 parishioners in 1905 to the dedication of the over 1770 parishioners today, St. Dorothea's has provided an outstanding ministry to the people of Central New Jersey.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I commend the following comments and questions, posed by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, to my colleagues as they consider relations between the aforementioned organization and the Defense POW/Missing Persons Office. I also ask that you note my June 20, 2005 floor colloquy with Mr. YOUNG on this subject.

#### CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS

Prime Minister of Vietnam is visiting the U.S. June 21. The focus seems to be on economics, trade and religious rights. What about accountability?

1. Vietnam is NOT cooperating in "full faith". We have never had access to the Central Highlands since the War was over where hundreds of our Americans are Missing—no chance to interview witnesses who are dying who might have valuable information on crash and grave sights plus documents.

2. Two U.S. war ships have been allowed to come into Vietnamese ports but never a salvage ship that could recover remains from known crash sights off the coast. We have offered to make this an educational venture but denied access.

Accountability should be a priority especially in a time of war—not just rhetoric but action. The families should be treated with respect.

Why does Jerry Jennings, head of the Defense POW/MIA Office still have a job? He has been under investigation for sexual harassment and hostile environment charges by his staff + alleged misappropriation of government funds. He has tried for over a year to undermine the family organizations. Three groups have released a vote of No Confidence in Jerry and his leadership staffers.

The league is very concerned over policy being pursued by the office assigned the responsibility within the Defense Department, headed by DASD Jerry Jennings.

The President in 2002 and Secretary of State in 2004 defined criteria expected of Vietnam, namely unilateral actions that Vietnam should take to be fully cooperative, including on cases of Americans missing in Laos and Cambodia controlled by Vietnamese forces during the war.

These pertain to unilateral provision of relevant archival records from ALL ministries and unilateral repatriation of remains that can't be recovered in the field with joint operations, for example Last Known Alive (LKA) cases where Americans were captured on alive on the ground in immediate proximity to hostile forces.

If dead, their remains should be readily available to the Vietnamese, but could be sensitive in view of the many years withheld on manner of death, readily determined by the experts at CIL.

We'd appreciate your reading this "End-of-Year Policy Assessment," prepared at our request by our Policy Adviser Richard Childress, a retired U.S. Army COL who served on President Reagan's NSC staff as Director Political Military, then Director for Asian Affairs from 1981–1989

League is not interested re-fighting the war or placing blame; we just want answers for the families, not recriminations, on all possible cases, and we base our expectations on USG intelligence and logic.

We're also deeply concerned over Mr. Jennings' handling of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs, a presidential commission that has been reduced in stature and effectiveness, despite having extremely talented staff within DPMO, the Joint Commission Support Directorate, or JCSD.

The league has great confidence in JCSD's abilities, plus has been working hard to get active Senate and House replacements for vacancies or positions held by inactive Members of the House and Senate.

We just succeeded in convincing Senator Saxby Chambliss to accept the Senate Republican position, but the Democrat Senator position is held by Senator John Kerry who has not participated at all in plenary or internal U.S. sessions.

The House Democrat position is held by Rep. Lane Evans, but we understand his tragic illness impeded active participation, and we need active committed Members to signal the Russians that the U.S. is serious.

Recently, Mr. Jennings' was reportedly appointed by the White House to assume the role of U.S. Chairman, an appointment that is too low level and without the prestige required for the Russian Government to take it seriously; they stated this fact to U.S. officials.

Mr. Jennings was the Commissioner representing DOD, and that was fine, but he is not the appropriate level to be a Presidential Envoy serving as U.S. Chairman; thus, we also oppose him in this second position.

The League has received countless complaints from DPMO staff members and we are VERY concerned about internal disruption, even implosion, of this organization that would not exist if were not for the League's efforts over the years that raised the priority.